Listening to His Voice

John 10:11-18

"When you're driving your car and listening to a radio station, you’ll get the clearest signal when you're closest to the tower," says Christian author Kent Crockett. "It’s easy to hear the station’s music because you are near to the source. But if you're driving out of town and going away from the tower, the radio signal gets weaker and starts breaking up. When you stop hearing that station, you’ll start picking up radio signals from other stations." He continues: That's what happens in the spiritual realm. When we are spiritually close to God, we are able to clearly hear Him. But if we start drifting away, or if we're deliberately running away from God, the signal gets weaker and it becomes hard to hear his voice. It’s at that point we become susceptible to hearing voices that are contrary to God. “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine…and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths” (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

Jesus said, ‘My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me” (John 10:27). HIS sheep hear Him speak because they are following Him. When we stop following, we stop hearing.

Are you away from God? If you want to hear HIS VOICE again, turn the car around and start heading in HIS direction. As you draw close to Him in your heart, you will begin to hear HIS VOICE speaking to you again. "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (James 4:8). He wants to speak to you but He doesn’t force Himself on anyone. You must make the first move by seeking HIS face and then He will respond by drawing near to you.

 Throughout the course of our lives, we instinctively have listened to voices. Our ears work well when we pick up different sounds. As a baby, our ears get in tuned to listen to our mothers, father’s voices or whoever is raising us and we learn to respond to their voice. Over the course of our lifetime, we have heard many voices and we can learn to distinguish those familiar ones that we engage with often.

 One voice that many of us should learn to be familiar with is the voice of God. In the 2007 blockbuster I am Legend, Will Smith’s character Neville thinks he is the last human on earth who has not been infected with a terrible virus that turns humans into zombie-like creatures. This is not your typical horror movie. It has brilliant dialogue and a powerful message. At one point, Neville finds out he is not alone when Anna and a boy named Ethan appear in HIS apartment. Anna is on her way to Connecticut where she is convinced there is a colony of survivors. When Neville asks her how she knows of this colony, she claims God told her. “You can hear God?” he asks. She answers, “The world is quieter now. We just have to listen. If we listen, we can hear God’s plan.”

During the time of Eli and HIS sons, the Bible says that God was silent. In reality, it was not that God was silent (we see him speaking in Chapter 2); the problem was that HIS people weren’t LISTENING. Their world was too noisy. If we want to know God and know HIS will, we must pray, worship, read, get godly counsel; but we must also get quiet.

Jesus told HIS followers that when they pray, they should go into a closet, and we see from HIS example that he often withdrew to quiet places (Luke 5:16). Why? So he could hear! **Are you LISTENING?**

“My sheep hear My VOICE, and I know them, and they follow Me” (John 10:27).

1. **The Good Shepherd**
2. **I am the Good Shepherd**
3. **Jesus is the Shepherd of his flock.**
4. **He speaks to his sheep through the preaching and teaching of his word.**
5. **He leads and guides his flock which is us throughout our lifetime.**
6. **He knows his sheep and feeds them spiritual nourishment.**
7. **He guides and counsels us as sheep to move in a godly direction.**
8. **He protects us from hurt, harm and danger.**
9. **He saves his sheep by lying down his life for us.**
10. **The Response of the Sheep**
11. **The sheep must obey the Shepherd.**
12. **Must be willing to follow in order to be protected.**
13. **Must listen to the voice of the Shepherd to be guided into green pastures and away from danger.**
14. **Must know the voice of the Shepherd and not listen to false hireling which can try to destroy the sheep.**
15. **We are the Sheep**
16. **We must learn to closely follow the Lord.**
17. **Surrender our will to the Shepherd.**
18. **Understand the importance of waiting on the Shepherd.**
19. **Realize that we are not as wise or smart as the Lord.**
20. **Ask God to help you comprehend his voice and to respond accordingly.**
21. **Obey his word by reading, praying, studying and seeking his face.**
22. **Beware of the Thief, Wolf, or Hired Hand**
23. **Thief**
24. **Like Satan come to steal our joy.**
25. **Kill our dreams and visions.**
26. **Destroy our very own souls.**
27. **We must be aware of the thief and not let him into our lives, for Satan means us no good.**
28. **We should never listen to the voice of the thief because he wants to kill our spirits and do everything He can to harm us.**
29. **Wolves**
30. **Kill sheep by attacking their throats.**
31. **Spiritual sense wolves can appear in sheep’s clothing**
32. **Pretending to be a Christian, but ultimately they are there to destroy the church or harm the Christian.**
33. **They are there to do harm and kill the God given vision and mission of the church.**
34. **The Hired Hand**
35. **Hired to watch over the flock, but doesn’t have a true love for the sheep.**
36. **Will not protect the sheep when danger comes.**
37. **Actually, will allow the sheep to scatter instead of staying close together.**
38. **When danger appears, he leaves the sheep.**
39. **Every person in a church or spiritual setting is not always looking out for the best of the sheep or the flock.**
40. **We must be a church that prays together to bind up the enemy that would try to harm us and pray for healing over us.**
41. **Listening Only to His Voice**
42. **God often speaks**
43. **Listen Consistently: when the Lord spoke to Samuel as a child. Three times he called out to Samuel and Samuel learned to hear the voice of the Lord.**
44. **Listen to a Gentle Whisper: Elijah needed to be encouraged by the Lord in I Kings 19:10-13**

He replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”

The Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

1. Listen to the Quietness of Your Soul

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. John 10:27-28